



# Ramsar Sites Information Service

## Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

# Senegal

9 Ramsar Site(s) covering 159,137 ha

### Kalissaye

Site number: 2,326 | Country: Senegal | Administrative region: ZIGUINCHOR  
Area: 30,014 ha | Coordinates: 12°48'35"N 16°42'48"W | Designation dates: 01-09-2017  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This rich coastal and marine Site consists of gallery forests, stands of mangrove (*Avicennia* and *Rhizophora*), bolongs (saltwater channels) and freshwater rivers. It is potentially the last refuge for numerous endangered species, and it hosts five of the seven sea turtle species that visit West African waters, including the leatherback, olive ridley, hawksbill and green turtle. The bird species present include little stint, black-tailed godwit, sanderling, bar-tailed godwit, Eurasian curlew, whimbrel, red knot and great white egret. The Site is also a feeding area for humpback dolphins and African manatees. In the area surrounding the Kalissaye wetlands, fish smoking activities have implications for the Site's resources and their dynamics, while exploitation of the Site's rich habitats threatens the biodiversity that depends on them. Specific threats include the collection of tern and sea turtle eggs.

### Parc National de la Langue de Barbarie

Site number: 2,467 | Country: Senegal | Administrative region: Régions de Saint Louis et de Louga  
Area: 2,000 ha | Coordinates: 15°49'48"N 16°31'29"W | Designation dates: 07-04-2021  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Parc National de la Langue de Barbarie (PNLB) is in the neighbourhood of Saint-Louis, in the historical region of Gandiol. The Site receives water from a network dominated by the Senegal and Douty rivers, the Laomar lagoons and the Atlantic Ocean. Its thin, sandy peninsula-like nature protects villages against high tides and flooding by seawater. The PNLB hosts five threatened IUCN red-listed marine turtles, including the green turtle *Chelonia mydas*, the olive ridley *Lepidochelys olivacea*, the loggerhead *Caretta caretta*, the hawksbill *Eretmochelys imbricata* and the leatherback turtle *Dermochelys coriacea*. These species use the Site for spawning and feeding and as a migration corridor. The Park has a bird island, which receives thousands of nesting pairs of grey-headed gulls (*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*), slender-billed gulls (*Chroicocephalus genei*) and royal terns (*Thalasseus maximus*) each year. The island is the most important breeding site for the grey-headed gulls. A management plan was established by the Government of Senegal for the Park in 2020 to help manage canal construction and other factors threatening the Site's ecological character.

## Parc National des Oiseaux du Djoudj

Site number: 138 | Country: Senegal | Administrative region: Saint-Louis

Area: 16,000 ha | Coordinates: 16°24'17"N 16°14'27"W | Designation dates: 11-07-1977

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an inland delta in the Senegal River floodplain consisting of an extensive complex of seasonally inundated brackish lakes and pools linked by a network of channels. The savannah vegetation features Sahelian *Tamarix* species with a ground layer of herbs and grasses in dry areas and various types of reed beds in inundated areas. It is one of the first shelters after the Sahara for Afro-tropical birds and Palaearctic migrants. The Site represents an exceptional genetic reserve for many plant and animal species: it forms a fragile sanctuary for birds such as the white pelican, the purple heron, the African spoonbill, the great egret and the cormorant. Internationally important numbers of various species of waterbirds use the Site for breeding, staging and wintering, with up to 3,000,000 individuals (over 360 species) at the peak of the season in December. Principal human activities are nature conservation and ecotourism, while surrounding areas are used for rice cultivation, livestock rearing and hunting. Low rainfall is the most serious potential threat: the Site has been confronted with water scarcity issues, which led to listing on the Montreux Record, but resolution of this problem through dams on the Senegal River led to its removal from the Record. It was returned to the Record in 1993, however, due to infestations of *Pistia stratiotes* and *Paspalum vaginatum*. The Site was the subject of Ramsar Advisory Missions in 1988 and 2000. A management plan exists with various monitoring and control activities, but the Site is facing additional threats of overgrazing of certain areas, illegal fishing activities reducing feed resources for birds, use of destructive fishing gear (monofilaments), encroachment on the protected area and noise pollution from rice paddies around the Site.

## Parc national du Delta du Saloum

Site number: 288 | Country: Senegal | Administrative region: Kaolack, Fatick

Area: 73,000 ha | Coordinates: 13°37'N 16°42'W | Designation dates: 03-04-1984

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Delta du Saloum. 03/04/84; Kaolack, Fatick; 73,000 ha; 13°37'N 16°42'W. Biosphere Reserve. Delta of the Sine and Saloum Rivers consisting of extensive mangrove forests dissected by saline channels, lagoons, islands, and islets. The site includes dune areas with dry, open forest. The site supports a varied fauna, including numerous species of notable mammals, four species of breeding turtles, and numerous species of nesting waterbirds and wintering Palearctic migrants. Human activities include nature conservation, tourism, and pastoralism. Management issues include illegal gathering of mollusc, bird, and turtle eggs and unsustainable exploitation of plant products. Surrounding areas are used for agriculture, livestock rearing, fishing, and hunting. Ramsar site no. 288. Most recent RIS information: 1992.

## Réserve Naturelle Communautaire de Palmarin

Site number: 2,328 | Country: Senegal | Administrative region: Fatick

Area: 10,430 ha | Coordinates: 14°03'26"N 16°45'04"W | Designation dates: 01-09-2017

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes various water bodies (the Atlantic Ocean, Saloum Inlet, Ndangane River, bolongs, and temporary pools), intertidal mud, sand and salt flats, mangrove swamps, islands, and savannas with trees, shrubs and grasslands. These wetlands provide foraging and resting areas for water birds such as flamingo, saddle-billed stork, grey and white pelicans, African sacred ibis, pied avocet, and species of the *Ardeidae* family including Goliath heron and dimorphic egret. Also present is the endangered green turtle *Chelonia mydas*. The Reserve also has a notable cultural heritage: it includes several sacred woods whose custodians are women. These woods have historically significant cultural characteristics and play an important role in the preservation of natural resources and the promotion of ecotourism. There is a site management plan, and conservation measures are in place such as education of local communities including some which grow crops on the Reserve.

## Réserve Naturelle Communautaire de Tocc Tocc

Site number: 2,199 | Country: Senegal | Administrative region: Saint-Louis

Area: 273 ha | Coordinates: 16°20'38"N 15°50'12"W | Designation dates: 12-09-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Réserve Naturelle Communautaire de Tocc Tocc. 12/09/2013; St. Louis Region; 273 ha; 16°20'38"N 15°50'13"W. Biosphere Reserve. This site is a permanent coastal freshwater lake which provides a habitat for spawning, nursery and feeding for over 98 fish species including Bagrid and Eel Catfish (*Chrysichthys nigrodigitatus* and *Clarias anguillaris*) and Guinean tilapia (*Tilapia guineensis*), which are species of high nutritional and commercial value to the local communities. The site serves as home for a large colony of water birds including the White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*), and also the freshwater Adanson's mud turtle (*Pelusios adansonii*) and the iconic and vulnerable West African Manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*), which was recently listed on CITES Appendix I. As well as acting as a reservoir of biodiversity, the site supports the hydrological balance of the Senegal River basin and provides services including groundwater recharge and flood control, and also desalination of brackish water for agricultural purposes. It is also a source of livelihoods for resident populations, which engage mainly in artisanal fisheries and harvesting of forest products such as *Cyperus articulatus*, a sedge species used as a base in the perfume industry. The main threats facing the site are overfishing and the uncontrolled abstraction of the water; a local management committee has been established to monitor these activities. Ramsar Site no. 2199. Most recent RIS information: 2013.

## Réserve Naturelle d'Intérêt Communautaire de la Somone

Site number: 2,327 | Country: Senegal | Administrative region: Thiès

Area: 700 ha | Coordinates: 14°30'26"N 17°04'11"W | Designation dates: 01-09-2017

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site was established in 1999 thanks to an initiative of local women who noted the degradation of the mangrove ecosystem on which they depended, and decided to regenerate it by planting hundreds of thousands of propagules. The Site consists of a lagoon with its bed and channels permanently covered by water, a zone of *Rhizophora*-dominated mangroves which are submerged at high tide, the sandy foreshore, *tanne* areas (bare and shrubbed salt flats) at the edge of the mangrove, and the transition area between the estuary and the mainland, including a barrier beach. The mangrove species include African *Avicennia*, red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) and button mangrove (*Conocarpus erectus*). The fauna of the estuary is diverse and abundant, and includes birds such as the peregrine falcon (which is rare and threatened in Senegal), the slender-billed gull, the long-tailed cormorant and African darter, the sanderling, little egret and western reef heron, the black-headed gull, the grey heron and the western cattle egret. Encroaching tourist facilities and upstream quarries present potential threats.

## Réserve Spéciale de Faune de Gueumbeul

Site number: 338 | Country: Senegal | Administrative region: Saint Louis

Area: 720 ha | Coordinates: 15°55'01"N 16°27'42"W | Designation dates: 29-09-1986

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an extensive saline lagoon surrounded by Sahelian vegetation and fed by seasonal rainfall and salt water from the Senegal River estuary. Native animal species include desert warthog (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*), patas monkey (*Erythrocebus patas*), African spurred tortoise (*Geochelone sulcata*) African rock python (*Python sebae*), as well as mongooses, pale foxes and genets. The permanent presence of water supports Afro-tropical and migratory Western Palearctic birds, such as black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*), lesser flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*), Eurasian spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) and the largest concentrations in Senegal of pied avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*). The Reserve is gradually degrading due to a combination of factors, including drought, salinization, the lowering of the water table and siltation of water tanks, partly because the Diama dam on the Senegal River has reduced the inflow of fresh water. Human activities include nature conservation and education, tourism and recreation. A management plan and safeguarding policy are being implemented to enable the regeneration of the Sahelian vegetation of the Reserve.

## Réserve Spéciale de Faune de Ndiaël

Site number: 139 | Country: Senegal | Administrative region: Saint-Louis, Dagana

Area: 26,000 ha | Coordinates: 16°14'14"N 16°03'38"W | Designation dates: 11-07-1977

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an inland wetland, specifically an impervious alluvial basin, on saline soil in the floodplain of the Senegal River. It is part of the Senegal River Delta Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, and has been classified as a special wildlife reserve since 1965. The vegetation is dominated by annual grasses and Acacia species. The Site is of great conservation importance, especially for birds such as Temminck's courser (*Cursorius temminckii*), squacco heron (*Ardeola ralloides*), black crowned crane (*Balearica pavonina*) and Egyptian goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*). It also hosts mammals including jackal (*Canis aureus*), patas monkey (*Erythrocebus patas*), warthog (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*), spotted hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*) and water mongoose (*Attilax paludinosus*); and reptiles such as the African python (*Python sebae*). The wetland is also of economic, cultural, scientific and recreational value, and is vital for the wellbeing of local people, for example providing water for livestock and crops. However, it is still vulnerable to threats such as desertification, proliferation of invasive species, agricultural and forestry effluents and water abstraction. The natural hydrology of the region was transformed in the 1960s to improve conditions for agriculture, and then affected by long periods of drought. The main ecological features of the Site were degraded and the subsistence and survival of indigenous communities threatened. A management plan is now being implemented to restore the hydrological and ecological characteristics of the Ndiaël to maintain its function for local communities and wildlife.